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Richard M. Austin, Jr.

10 February 2006

Jean C. Witz
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1651
U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: Application Number: 10/037,881 ✓
File Date: 01/04/2002
First Named Inventor: Richard M. Austin, Jr.
Attorney Docket Number: 4532670/6200 (KEM 42)
Confirmation Number: 4794

Dear Mrs. Witz,

My name is Richard M. Austin, Jr., and I am the primary inventor of the material contained in this patent. I am a full-time teaching professor at a small, liberal arts college in northeast Georgia. I have been here for my entire professional career.

A company, Kemin Industries, heard of my research several years ago and approached me regarding a partnership to explore the commercial applications of my research. We entered into said partnership and pursued that goal. As a part of that goal, we pursued this patent along with multiple world patents as well. Having no prior experience with the cooperate world or patent law, I allowed their attorney to represent and direct these efforts. I questioned repeatedly why certain information was withheld from our patent application over the past years. I now believe it was because they intend to pursue related patents in the future on their own. (see addendum).

I have no prior experience in the protocol of filing a response to your objections to the claims listed in this patent. However, if it would be appropriate, I would like to respond to the arguments for the rejection of claims 1-19 in the patent application entitled "*Bacterial isolates from organisms that respire at least partially through their skin and biologically active extracts derived therefrom.*" I would also like to supply related documentation that provides proof that some of the information that you have stated